

Appln. No.: 10/649,505  
Amdt. dated May 3, 2005  
Reply to Office action of February 28, 2005

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ heating and ventlation and air conditioning system comprising;

a casing including first and second sections of plastic material,

a blower in said casing for moving air through said casing,

a heat exchanger in said casing for exchanging heat with the fluid flowing through said casing,

a joint for sealing said sections together to prevent leakage of the fluid flowing through said casing,

said joint including a groove in and extending along said first section and a tongue extending from and along said second section to a distal end in said groove,

said tongue having a wider dimension than said groove to provide an interference fit of said tongue into said groove,

said tongue having a slot extending into said distal end thereof for splitting said tongue into first and second forks to compress said forks together by said groove as said tongue is inserted ~~[[in]]~~ into frictional engagement with said groove to narrow said slot from top to bottom to retain said tongue in said groove.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said groove and said forks have straight sides and with said forks being ~~[[are]]~~ compressed together by said groove as said straight sides are in sliding engagement to narrow said slot from top to bottom to retain said tongue in said groove.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said tongue extends from a latterly extending flange surface to present a shoulder on either side of said tongue, said first section presenting a sealing surface on either side of said groove.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 3 wherein said groove has a bottom and said distal end of said tongue is spaced from said bottom when said shoulders engage said sealing surface.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 4 wherein said distal ends of said forks of said tongue are tapered inwardly to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said groove.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 3 wherein said groove has a bottom and said distal end of said tongue is spaced from said bottom and said shoulders are spaced from said sealing surface.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 6 wherein said distal ends of said forks of said tongue are tapered inwardly to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said groove.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 6 wherein said groove includes a narrow bottom portion and a wider lead-in portion, said lead-in portion being spaced from said groove.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 8 including a tapered shoulder connecting said wider portion to said narrow portion.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 1 including a sealing bead extending along each side of said tongue for sealing engagement with said groove.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[easing]]~~ system as set forth in claim 1 including a snap together connection adjacent and spaced from said tongue and groove for holding said sections together independently of said tongue and groove.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A joint for sealing components together to prevent leakage,

said joint including a groove in said first component and a tongue extending from said second component to a distal end in said groove,

said tongue having a wider dimension than said groove to provide an interference fit of said tongue into said groove.

said tongue having a slot extending into said distal end thereof for splitting said tongue into first and second forks to compress said forks together by said groove as said tongue is inserted into ~~[[in]]~~ frictional engagement with said groove to narrow said slot from top to bottom to retain said tongue in said groove.

Claim 14. (Canceled)